

KERMAN GROTTO PLANS BIG YEAR

**Charter Granted Here in 1921;
Growth Has Been Con-
tinuous Since.**

With the members being again highly Grotto-minded and Monarch Fred Woodard already having arranged a complete social program for the year and with committees beginning to function rapidly, 1941 gives every indication of being another great and banner year for Kerman Grotto, M. O. V. P. E. R.

At the annual meeting the following officers were elected and installed for the ensuing year: Fred Woodard, monarch; Bert E. Patton, chief justice; Fred W. Collins, master of ceremonies; George W. Kruzan, treasurer; R. P. "Dick" Gillum, secretary; Al Fischer venerable prophet, and three trustees, all past monarchs, H. A. Pritchett, Clay Phillips and Charles P. Fulper, not appearing in the picture.

Kerman Grotto was first thought of back in 1920, but became a reality in 1921 when the supreme council of M. O. V. P. E. R. granted a charter in June of that year. Sam Hara Grotto of Indianapolis came over with a large delegation of prophets and installed the first official staff and obligated a charter member class of over 100. Today Kerman Grotto holds a closed membership of 500 members in good standing. Kerman Grotto solely owns and operates a city club at Eighth and Eagle streets, with a large free parking lot for members, all being entirely free from any indebtedness. The club has all the conveniences of a modern fraternity, with a large auditorium for shows, banquets, large meetings or parties, lounge rooms for members and their families to rest and enjoy themselves, recreation and game rooms on two floors for the members, and four modern and well-kept bowling alleys. The bowling alleys are occupied every week-day night by league team bowling, both the men and ladies, with each Wednesday and Sunday afternoon for open bowling or practice. The lodge rooms are used by the Grotto on each second Wednesday for the regular stated session and on the first and third Wednesdays by the ladies organization, Kerman Caldron, for their sessions, thereby making Kerman a real family fraternity.

man has enjoyed a most prosperous year in the one just passed, some outstanding events and a host of social activities being to the advantage of by the members.

The most important among years events was the jollification party and mortgage burningemony, last Nov. 13, when the members of the obligation were delivered by the burning process. A turnout of both Kerman to members and Ladies of Kerman Caldron and their families were on hand to witness the end of a life time as Kerman members.

Some of the other events of the year were two wonderful banquets, Spring and Fall, bringing over thirty-five new members to the order, and the restoration and standing of twenty-five former members.

The first annual Goodfellowship celebration was held at the home

October, with nearly all of the membership taking advantage of opportunity to witness something entirely new in the way of Grotto entertainment. The celebration consisted of a joint ceremonial sweepstakes bowling tournament for Prophets only. The Grotto is honored with the official vision of four grand officers of the Supreme Council, they holding in praise for the way the members of Kerman Grotto attend the Grotto affairs, also for the novel and entertaining features attached to an original event of that kind.

Largest Grotto Class.

The largest class of neophytes several years, crossed the River at that time, bringing the number of new members up to the total set for the year of 1940. A class of twenty-two were initiated that date. Past Monarch H. A. Pritchett, chairman of the membership committee for 1940 and the committee deserve all the honors making two of the largest classes in recent years possible.

The state Grotto bowling meet held at Kerman in the Fall and full of bowling, are some of the things that make the keggers lead happy and enjoyable life on the lanes at the Grotto. Every Sunday evening finds a family party in progress at Kerman, including club band music for dancing in the downstairs club quarters, games, bowling and a changed menu each night. The windup for social activities for the year just passed, came on New Year's Eve, when the entertainment committee held the last party, which was a pleasant and successful affair, with capacity house of prophets and ends enjoying themselves until the wee hours of the New Year morning.

Kerman not only operates a club for the social life of its members, but donates to the needy and underprivileged of the community. The Supreme Council encourages each Grotto to carry on in work of that kind. Kerman Grotto holds annually a party for the orphan kids of Rose Home at Christmas time, seeing through the help of standing committee that the children get their desired gifts from Santa Claus. The prophets look forward to that event and never fail to attend that one party of the year.

The last party was one of the best and was attended by a larger crowd than any, since the first year of Kerman Grotto. The hobby of grand man of Kerman, Past Monarch George W. Krietenstein, deceased, was to be at Kerman and

perform as master of ceremonies, seeing that the kiddies went home happy and full of the Yuletide spirit on Christmas Morn.

Kerman Benefactions.

Another charitable deed that Kerman holds as an obligation is the maintaining of the Rose Home Scout Troop No. 28, which now is rated as one of the outstanding troops of the city. A committee appointed by the Monarch Prophets Roscoe Pinson and Charles Hamilton deserves the credit for building the troop, taking high scout honors and for which Kerman is mighty proud. This committee meets with the boys regularly and sees that all the needs to make that a wonderful troop are taken care of.

A year ago a few prophets conceived the need for a family recreation club and in a short space of time saw their dream realized when they formed the P. O. R. K. or Prophets Outdoor Recreation Club for Kerman Grotto members. Today they have built the membership of the inner club to over 100 members and have a real live organization. They have already held several activities that have netted them a starting fund and in time to come the outdoor club, where all kinds of sports may be taken advantage of, will be a realization. The Prophets of that club are now making preparations for a trip, accompanying the monarch and officers of Kerman as a marching club to the Supreme Council session or national convention at St. Louis in late June of this year.

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